

Applic. No. 09/174,042

Amdt. dated July 26, 2004

Reply to Office action of March 26, 2004

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 (previously presented): A heat insulated wall,
comprising:

a connecting profile;

an evacuable heat insulating material;

two outer covering layers having contours and disposed at a distance from one another, said two outer covering layers connected to one another in a vacuum-tight manner by said connecting profile running along said contours, said two outer covering layers together with said connecting profile enclosing an intermediate space to be evacuated and filled with said evacuable heat insulating material, at least one of said two outer covering layers having an aperture formed therein;

a tube section including two end sections, at least one of said two end sections having a circumferentially positioned flange-shaped expanded and flattened region; and

said at least one flange-shaped expanded and flattened region having an end surface facing away from said tube section and

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being fixed in a vacuum-tight manner to said at least one of said two outer covering layers at said aperture and being formed to compensate for positional imprecisions between said aperture and said tube section.

Claim 2 (previously-presented): The heat insulated wall according to claim 1, wherein said aperture is formed in both of said two outer covering layers and said two outer covering layers have mutually facing inner sides, said tube section is disposed in said intermediate space between said two outer covering layers formed with said apertures and connects said apertures to one another for providing a passage for passing cables, each of said two end sections of said tube section having one of said flange-shaped expanded and flattened regions and said tube section is fixed in a vacuum-tight manner on said mutually facing inner sides of said two outer covering layers.

Claim 3 (original): The heat insulated wall according to claim 1, wherein said tube section and said flange-shaped expanded and flattened region each have a circular cross section.

Claim 4 (original): The heat insulated wall according to claim 2, wherein said tube section and said flange-shaped

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expanded and flattened regions each have a circular cross section.

Claim 5 (original): The heat insulated wall according to claim 1, wherein said flange-shaped expanded and flattened region is an integral component of said tube section.

Claim 6 (original): The heat insulated wall according to claim 2, wherein said flange-shaped expanded and flattened regions are an integral component of said tube section.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The heat insulated wall according to claim 1, wherein said aperture has a ~~given~~ width and said tube section has a cross section ~~corresponding~~ matching at least substantially in an unobstructed manner to said ~~given~~ width of said aperture.

Claim 8 (original): The heat insulated wall according to claim 1, wherein said two outer covering layers and said tube section having said flange-shaped expanded and flattened region are composed of a material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel and corrosion-protected steel, and said two outer covering layers are connected to said flange-shaped expanded and flattened region by a welded connection formed by a beam-welding process.

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Claim 9 (original): The heat insulated wall according to claim 2, wherein said two outer covering layers and said tube section having said flange-shaped expanded and flattened regions are composed of a material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel and corrosion-protected steel, and said two outer covering layers are connected to said flange-shaped expanded and flattened regions by a beam-welding process.

Claim 10 (original): The heat insulated wall according to claim 8, wherein said flange-shaped expanded and flattened region has a free edge and said welded connection between said two outer covering layers and said flange-shaped expanded and flattened region is provided in a region close to said free edge.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The heat insulated wall according to claim 1, wherein said two outer covering layers have a ~~given~~ material thickness and said flange-shaped expanded and flattened region has a material thickness ~~corresponding to being at least substantially twice~~ said ~~given~~ material thickness of said two outer covering layers.

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Claim 12 (currently amended): The heat insulated wall according to claim 2, wherein said two outer covering layers have a ~~given~~ material thickness and said flange-shaped expanded and flattened regions have a material thickness ~~corresponding to being at least substantially twice said given~~ material thickness of said two outer covering layers.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A heat insulated housing for a refrigerator, comprising:

a heat insulated housing body including:

a connecting profile;

an evacuable heat insulating material;

two outer covering layers having contours and disposed at a distance from one another, said two outer covering layers connected to one another in a vacuum-tight manner by said connecting profile running along said contours, said two outer covering layers together with said connecting profile enclosing an intermediate space that can be evacuated and filled with said evacuable heat insulating material, at least one of said two outer covering layers having an aperture formed therein; and

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a tube section including two end sections and one of said two end sections having a circumferentially positioned flange-shaped expanded and flattened region fixed in a vacuum-tight manner in said aperture of said at least one of said two covering layers.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): An oven muffle for bounding an oven area and a door of a domestic oven, the oven muffle comprising:

a connecting profile;

an evacuable heat insulating material;

two outer covering layers having contours and disposed at a distance from one another, said two outer covering layers connected to one another in a vacuum-tight manner by said connecting profile running along said contours, said two outer covering layers together with said connecting profile enclosing an intermediate space that can be evacuated and filled with said evacuable heat insulating material, at least one of said two outer covering layers having an aperture formed therein; and

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a tube section including two end sections and one of said two end sections having a circumferentially positioned flange-shaped expanded and flattened region fixed in a vacuum-tight manner in said aperture of said at least one of said two covering layers.

Claim 15 (new): The heat insulated wall according to claim 1, wherein said tube section having said flange-shaped expanded and flattened region is an evacuation connecting stub.